

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Final Office Action dated October 8, 2008.

Claims 1-9 are pending in the Application. All claims were rejected in the Office Action.

Applicants amend Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-7 and 9 and respectfully request a reconsideration of the rejections.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tomohide et al., (JP07-295720).

Claim 1, as amended, recites a display device having a front surface with a display and a rear surface, which is located at a reverse side of the front surface. This rear surface includes a plurality of operation keys and a plurality of finger position detecting mechanisms associated with the operation keys such that a finger position detecting mechanism detects that a finger of an operator is placed on one of the operation keys.

Tomohide et al. discloses that both a touch sensor and a keyboard are provided on a mobile information terminal. Tomohide et al. discloses in paragraph [0019], “the touch sensor 8 is arranged so that the surface of the display 1 may be covered, and it detects the pointing operation to the surface of the display 1 with a user’s finger and input pen.”

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the touch sensor that is disclosed in Tomohide et al. is not a finger position detecting mechanism which is associated with the operation keys and which detects that a finger of an operator is placed on each of the operation keys, as claimed in independent claim 1.

Since each of Claims 2-5 is directly or indirectly dependent upon independent Claim 1, each of Claims 2-5 is allowable at least for the same reasons as Claim 1 and further on their own merits.

Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bogward (20040049743). Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

With respect to Claim 8, Applicants respectfully submit that this claim does not depend on Claim 7 but, instead, depends on Claim 6 (which, in turn, depends on Claim 1). Therefore, Claim 8 incorporates all limitations of Claims 1 and 6. Bogward does not remedy the above deficiency of the Tomohide reference. Therefore, Claim 8 is allowable at least for the same reasons as Claim 1 and further on its own merits.

Claim 7, as amended, recites a terminal with a display device having a front surface with a display and a rear surface with a plurality of operation keys. A gravity sensor is provided in the terminal to detect whether gravity is applied in a direction from the front surface side of the display device to the rear surface, or whether gravity is applied in the opposite direction. This limitation of Claim 7 is not disclosed or even suggested by Bogward.

The keypads in Bogward are not disposed on a rear surface of the device having the display on its front surface. Instead, one leaf of the device shown in Bogward includes the display on its front surface, while the other leaf includes the keypads on its front surface. See, e.g., Bogward, Fig. 33B).

Further, Bogward appears to fail to disclose “a processing operation to change the assignment of key codes to said operation keys in response to an input signal from said gravity sensor,” as claimed in independent claim 7.

Therefore, Claim 7 is allowable over the cited prior art.

Since Claim 9 is directly dependent upon independent claim 7, claim 9 is allowable for at least the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 7.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomohide et al., in view of Bogward. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Since Claim 6 is directly dependent upon independent Claim 1, Claim 6 is allowable for at least the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent Claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 1-9 is respectfully requested. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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